

SECRET

Journal - Office of Legislative Counsel
Friday - 27 June 1969

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25X1A 4. (Internal Use Only - LLM) Representative Charles S. Gubser (R., Calif.) called in connection with an invitation he had received from the Pan Arcadian Federation of America to be a guest at the international conference in Athens 17 August through 2 September to ask what we know of the sponsors. I suggested he contact the FBI since a U.S. organization and personalities were involved, but said we would be glad to relay any information which would be helpful. In his absence he suggested we could talk with his Administrative Assistant, Jean Gordon. Based on information supplied by [redacted] I informed Jean Gordon of the basic makeup of these organizations and their political nature and suggested that the Congressman might want to also touch base with Mr. Alfred Vigderman, in State, in view, among other things, of the military equipment issue and Mr. Gubser's position with the House Armed Services Committee.

5. (Internal Use Only - LLM) In response to her earlier call, spoke with Darlene Booher, in the office of Senator George Murphy (R., Calif.), concerning the personnel application of [redacted] and advised her that we were reviewing the case once again, had so notified [redacted] and would advise the Senator by letter of the outcome. This was completely satisfactory to Miss Booher.

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6. (Secret - JGO) Met with Mr. Arthur Kuhl, Chief Clerk, and later with Miss Varney Porter, Transcript Editor, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and transcribed the Agency's security deletions of the Director's testimony of 23 June which were prepared by Mr. Bruce Clarke, OSR/DDI. Miss Porter agreed that she would call me when the final edited copy was ready for publication so that the Agency might have a last-minute quick review prior to printing. It is expected that the edited copy will be ready sometime mid-week June 30.

7. (Secret - JGO) The four copies of the DCI/Laird testimony of 23 June before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee were forwarded to the Committee for their use during the day and returned to the Agency for safekeeping. They will be returned to the Committee again on Monday.

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JOURNAL

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Thursday - 26 June 1969

1. (Secret - JGO) I talked to Mr. Arthur Kuhl, Chief Clerk, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, concerning the deletion of the Director's testimony from the transcript of the hearing of 23 June. Mr. Kuhl advised that the preferred method for reporting excisions from the transcript would be to bracket the material rather than to line it out. He also advised that he had talked to General Lawrence, Deputy Assistant to the Secretary of Defense, yesterday requesting that the Secretary's office return their corrections and recommended security deletions by Friday afternoon or Saturday morning at the latest. He has not yet heard from General Lawrence who wanted to check the matter with Mr. Stempler. Mr. Kuhl also noted that the Agency would probably have little difficulty in the security review of the transcript since it was his understanding that it had been agreed by the Committee Chairman that the Director's testimony would be deleted.

2. (Secret - JGO) I talked to Mrs. Mary McLaughlin, Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff, who advised that various members of the Committee are actively reviewing the transcript of the DCI/Laird testimony of 23 June. Mrs. McLaughlin indicated that at least one senator will be working on the transcript between 6 and 7 p.m. this evening. It was agreed, therefore, that the Committee copies of the transcript would be picked up at 7 rather than 5:30 this evening. The transcripts will be returned to the Committee for their use in the morning.

25X1A 3. (Unclassified - RW) Mr. Bob O'Regan, in the office of Representative Dante B. Fascell (D., Fla.), called regarding the employment applications of [redacted] and advised that [redacted] died last night and there would be no need for further action on the applications. Personnel was advised. 25X1A 25X1A

25X1A cc:

Ex/Dir-Compt O/DDCI

[redacted]
Mr. Houston Mr. Goodwin
DD/I DD/S DD/S&T
OPPБ EA/DDP

[redacted]
JOHN M. MAURY
Legislative Counsel

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JOURNAL
OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Wednesday - 25 June 1969

1. (Unclassified - JMM) Mr. Lloyd Salvetti, Administrative Assistant to Representative Hastings Keith, called to say the Congressman would like to visit Headquarters for the briefing on the Soviet leadership situation at 0830 hours on Tuesday, 1 July. [redacted] of OCI has been alerted.

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2. (Confidential - JMM) Told Jay Sourwine, of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, that we would provide him with a copy of the FBIS roundup on the recent conferences of Communist parties in Moscow which should be available in about mid-July.

Also discussed with Sourwine the problems of the Ervin bill and which members of the Committee and Subcommittee concerned might support exemptions for the Agency. (See Memo for the Record.)

STATOTHR 3. (Internal Use Only - JGO) Met with Miss Gertrude King, Assistant to Representative Thomas Morgan (D., Pa.), and provided a draft response for Representative Morgan's use in replying to [redacted]
[redacted] Miss King appreciated the Agency's assistance in this matter and advised that she would advise me if any further correspondence is received from [redacted]
STATOTHR

4. (Secret - JGO) Met with Mrs. Mary McLaughlin, Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff, and received from her the Committee's copy of the Director's testimony of April 23 before the Gore Subcommittee. Mrs. McLaughlin advised that the transcript will not be needed unless specific call is made for it.

5. (Secret - JGO) Met with Mr. Arthur Kuhl, Chief Clerk, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, who advised that the Committee will return the four copies of the transcript of the Laird/DCI testimony of 23 June to the Agency on a daily basis for safekeeping (the other two copies of the transcript are with Secretary Laird and the Agency for review and security editing). The Committee, however, will have need for the four copies during the next few days and they will be returned to the Committee each morning.

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24 JUN 1969

Sen. Foreign Rel.

LAIRD NARROWS SCOPE OF WARNING ON SOVIET THREAT

Tells Senators First-Strike Missile Is Designed Only to Counter Minuteman

C.I.A. HEAD AT HEARING

Secretary's Stand Seen by Fulbright and Gore as Aid in Blocking Safeguards

By JOHN W. FINNEY

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 23

Under critical cross-examination by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird retreated today from his statement that the Soviet Union was seeking a missile first-strike capability against the United States.

Testifying three months ago before the committee, Mr. Laird stated that the Soviet Union was "going for a first-strike capability — there is no question about that."

Recalled before the committee at a closed hearing today, he offered a new definition of Soviet intentions that was much narrower than his earlier suggestion that the Soviet Union was seeking to knock out the retaliatory capability of the United States.

In a prolonged argument with committee members that often involved semantics, Secretary Laird finally took the position that all he was suggesting was that the Soviet Union was developing a "first strike weapon" with its SS-9 intercontinental missile. This weapon, in turn, he acknowledged, was aimed at only one portion of the United States retaliatory force, the Minuteman Missile.

See Semantic Victory

Senator J. W. Fulbright, the committee chairman, and Senator Albert Gore, chairman of the disarmament subcommittee,

immediately seized upon the Laird modification as at least a semantic victory in their battle to block deployment of the Administration's Safeguard missile defense system.

From the start of the anti-ballistic missile debate, Senator Gore observed, a key issue has been whether the Safeguard system was necessary to preserve the integrity of the American nuclear deterrent.

If the Soviet Union was intent on knocking out the American deterrent, as suggested in the earlier Laird "first strike" statement, the Tennessee Democrat said, then a justification could be made for the Safeguard system. But if the Soviet Union is developing only a capability to strike at just one part of the deterrent force, he said, "then the whole justification is pulled out — like Samson pulled out the pillars of the temple."

'Most Difficult Session'

Mr. Laird testified for nearly five hours before the committee in what Senator Fulbright, an Arkansas Democrat, was to describe as "the most difficult session" in his 25 years in Congress. The purpose of the closed door confrontation was to resolve whether there were differences between the intelligence community and the Pentagon over the Soviet missile threat.

In an unusual move, Secretary Laird insisted that he be accompanied by Richard Helms, the Director of Central Intelligence, a condition reluctantly accepted by the committee.

It was the first time in the memory of Central Intelligence Agency officials that the director had been drawn directly into a policy dispute between a Cabinet official and a Congressional committee. The effect was to silence Mr. Helms, who is known to have reservations about the Laird assessments of the Soviet missile threat.

Had Little to Say

Mr. Helms, according to members, had little to say before the committee and not a word afterward to reporters as he emerged from the committee room with Mr. Laird.

But Secretary Laird was not so reticent. After a brief appearance before television cameras outside the committee room, he hastened back to the Pentagon to hold an impromptu news conference at which he emphasized a new Soviet missile threat.

Following up a point first made by President Nixon at his news conference last week, Mr. Laird said the Soviet Union was testing a multiple warhead for its SS-9 missile that was capable of knocking out three Minuteman missiles simultaneously.

He thus opened a new intelligence dispute with the safeguard opponents. During the hearing, according to both Senators Fulbright and Gore, no evidence was presented indicating that the Soviet Union was testing independently targetable multiple warheads known as MIRV's, for multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicles.

Less Sophisticated

The presumption, therefore, was that the intelligence community believed the Soviet Union was testing less sophisticated multiple re-entry vehicles, known as MRV's, which fall in a cluster and are not independently targeted.

At his Pentagon news conference, Mr. Laird declined to be drawn into a dispute over the multiple warheads being tested by the Soviet Union were independently guided. The important point, he said, is that the three-part multiple warhead is falling into a variable triangular pattern that coincides with the way Minuteman silos are deployed.

Another semantic difference developed between Mr. Laird and the committee over whether the Pentagon and the intelligence community disagreed over the Soviet missile threat.

Senator Gore emerged before the hearing was completed to assert before the television cameras that the United States Intelligence Board—the top-level, interagency body that coordinates intelligence estimates—had made no finding supporting Mr. Laird's statement that the Soviet Union was seeking a first-strike capability.

Disagreement Denied

An hour later before the cameras, Mr. Laird asserted that there was "no disagreement" within the intelligence community on intelligence "facts" about the Soviet Union and that "there is no question about interpretation" of these facts.

While the Intelligence Board may have not made any findings supporting the Laird conclusions, committee members, pressed by reporters, acknowledged that the board had not made any findings contradicting the Laird first-strike assessment.

The point was emphasized at the Pentagon by Mr. Laird, who said the board had "never even considered" whether the SS-9

missile was a first-strike weapon or whether the Soviet Union was striving for a first-strike capability.

"They don't get into evaluations such as that," he explained.

Probably the biggest hassle that developed between the committee and Mr. Laird—one that consumed nearly two hours—was over the definition of "first strike," particularly as it was used by the Secretary when he told the committee on March 21 that the Soviet Union was "going for a first-strike capability."

Finds It Narrower

Senators Gore and Fulbright observed that the term "first strike" used to mean the ability to knock out or destroy the retaliatory capability of an opponent. But now, Senator Fulbright said, Mr. Laird is offering an interpretation of first strike that is "much narrower" and more restricted than it was originally.

Mr. Laird's new definition, the Senator said, was somewhat confusing because the Secretary offered "variations from minute to minute that were incredible." But as now used by Mr. Laird, he said, the term "first strike seems to have the relatively restricted meaning that the SS-9 is a weapon that has a capacity to destroy a missile in its silo."

This interpretation seemed to be supported by Mr. Laird after the meeting. Asked by reporters for his definition of first strike, he said it was the difference between a first-strike weapon that can be used against "hardened" targets, such as missile silos, and second-strike weapons that can be used against "soft" targets, such as cities. He then noted that "first-strike weapons can also be used as second strike weapons."

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LAIRD-HELMS

BY JACK BELL

WASHINGTON (AP)—SECRETARY OF DEFENSE MELVIN R. LAIRD AND CIA DIRECTOR RICHARD HELMS WERE CALLED TO TESTIFY TODAY BEFORE A CLOSED SESSION OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE SOVIET OFFENSIVE MISSILE CAPABILITY.

LAIRD IN THE PAST HAS CONTENDED THE RUSSIANS ARE AIMING AT A NUCLEAR FIRST STRIKE CAPABILITY, A POSITION SOME DEMOCRATIC SENATORS ARE SKEPTICAL ABOUT.

"WE'VE HEARD SO MANY THINGS AROUND HERE THAT WEREN'T SO, THAT I THINK THE ATTITUDE OF A LOT OF US IS THAT 'IT AIN'T NECESSARILY SO'," COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SEN. J. W. FULBRIGHT SAID.

FULBRIGHT, D-ARK., HAD SAID EARLIER HE DIDN'T THINK INTELLIGENCE FINDINGS SUPPORTED LAIRD'S CONTENTIONS ABOUT MOSCOW'S MISSILE PROGRAM.

IT WAS A SIMILAR CHALLENGE WHICH CAUSED LAIRD TO DEMAND THAT HELMS BE CALLED TO TEST HIMSELF TO SUBSTANTIATE HIS POSITION THAT THERE ARE NO ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFERENCES OVER INTELLIGENCE EVALUATIONS.

FULBRIGHT SAID HE FAVORED SEPARATE APPEARANCES. HE PRAISED HELMS, SAYING HE WAS "A STRAIGHT TALKER" WHOSE LATTER "IS A PROFESSIONAL AND HE HAS BEEN STRAIGHTFORWARD."

SEN. PHILIP MUNDT, D-S.D., A COMMITTEE MEMBER AND A SUPPORTER OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM, SAID HE INTERPRETS THE INTELLIGENCE CONTROVERSY AND RECENT EFFORTS TO HALT DEVELOPMENT OF MISSILE AS "A STRATEGIC MISTAKE BY ABM CRITICS."

"THE SUPPORT OF HER SUPPORT IS GROWING," MUNDT SAID. "NOW ITS FOES ARE ABANDONING MORE OF STOPPING IT AND ARE CHANGING THEIR TARGET."

"THEY WANT TO STOP OUR TESTING OF A MULTIPLE-TARGET MIRV MISSILE WHILE THE RUSSIANS ARE GOING RIGHT AHEAD WITH THEIR TESTS."

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